

Appl. No. 10/696,793
Examiner: HEWITT, JAMES , Art Unit 3679
In response to the Office Action dated January 27, 2005

Date: April 27, 2005
Attorney Docket No. 10111393

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on January 27, 2005 in the above-referenced application, Applicant respectfully requests amendment of the above-identified application in the manner identified above and that the patent be granted in view of the arguments presented. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Present Status of Application

After this amendment, claims 1-11 are pending. Claims 1-4 are objected to for informalities. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-3 are indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the noted objections.

In this paper, claims 1 and 2 are amended to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Applicant submits that the objections to claims 1-4 are thereby overcome. New claims 5-11 are added. Support for the new claims can be found on pages 5-6 and in Figs. 1A-1E of the application.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the remarks contained below.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication in the Office Action that claims 1-3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent to overcome the noted objections. Claims 1-2 have been amended according to the suggestion of the Examiner. Applicant therefore submits that claims 1-3 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for the reasons as follow.

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The Examiner asserts that claim 4 is directed to the embodiment shown in Figs. 2A-2C, and depends from claim 1, which is directed to the embodiment depicted in Figs. 1A-1E. The Examiner further asserts that claim 1 is not readable or generic to each embodiment, and rather is directed only to the embodiment depicted in Figs. 1A-1E.

Applicant respectfully disagrees that claim 1 is not readable on the embodiment shown in Figs. 2A-2C. Namely, as indicated on pages 6-7 of the application, Fig. 2A shows an inflatable product. Furthermore, in the embodiment shown in Figs. 2A-2C, air pump 22 pumps air into the inflatable product when switch 21 is rotated into to INFLATE, and air pump 22 pumps air out of the inflatable product when switch 21 is rotated into to DEFLATE. By definition, an inflatable product must include a chamber which is filled and emptied during inflation and deflation. This feature is also described in the specification in connection with the embodiment shown in Figs. 1A-1E. Thus, it is understood from page 7 and Figs. 2A-2C of the application that the inside of a chamber (not shown) is connected with air intake 221 or air outlet 222 by movement of the air pump between two positions. Furthermore, it is understood that the outside of the chamber is connected with the air outlet 222 or the air intake 221 via main pipe 238 by movement of the air pump between two positions. Please note the path indicated by the arrows in Figs. 2A and 2C.

Thus, while the chamber itself is not shown in Figs. 2A-2C, it is understood from the drawings and the related text that the depicted inflatable product includes a chamber, as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, Figs. 2A-2C clearly show an air pump for inflating the chamber, the air pump having an air intake and an air outlet, as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, the air intake is connected to the outside of the chamber and the air outlet is connected to the inside of the chamber when the air pump is moved to a first position, as recited in claim 1 and shown in Fig. 2A. In addition, the air intake is connected to the inside of the chamber and the air outlet is connected to the outside of the chamber when the air pump is moved to a second position, as recited in claim 1 and shown in Fig. 2C. Therefore, each limitation recited in claim 1 is readable onto the embodiment shown in Figs. 2A-2C.

For these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 4 is in proper dependent form, and furthermore, that claim 1 is generic to the embodiments shown in Figs. 1A-1E and 2A-2C. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 112 be withdrawn.

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Furthermore, as claim 4 depends from rewritten claim 1, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable, it is Applicant's belief that claim 4 is now in condition for allowance.

New Claim 5-11

New claims 5-11 are directed to the embodiment shown in Figs. 1A-1E. Claim 5 recites an inflatable product comprising: a chamber; a housing comprising a first opening and a second opening, each opening communicating with the chamber; and an air pump comprising an air intake and an air outlet, the air pump mounted in the housing and rotatable between a first position and a second position; wherein rotation of the air pump to the first position closes the first opening, brings the air intake into communication with the ambient, and brings the air outlet into communication with the second opening, and rotation of the air pump to the second position closes the second opening, brings the air outlet into communication with the ambient, and brings the air intake into communication with the first opening. Claim 8 recites an inflatable product, comprising: a chamber and a pump set, the pump set comprising at least a housing, comprising at least a first outer vent, a second outer vent, a first inner vent and a second inner vent, wherein the first and second outer vents communicate with the ambient, and the first and second inner vents communicate with the chamber; and an air driving means mounted in the housing, wherein, on activation of the air driving means to inflate the chamber, air is drawn from the ambient through the first outer vent, and is pumped through the second inner vent into the chamber, on activation of the air driving means to deflate the chamber, air is drawn from the chamber through the first inner vent, and is pumped through the second outer vent to the ambient.

Applicant submits that none of the prior art cited by the Examiner teaches or suggests an inflatable product including all the limitations recited in claims 5 and 8. It is therefore Applicant's belief that claims 5 and 8 are allowable over the cited references. Insofar as claims 6-7 and 9-11 depend from claims 5 and 8, respectively, it is Applicant's belief that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests so.

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Respectfully submitted,



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